GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:74
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2005
APPEAL OF UNCTAD TO TSUNAMI AFFECTED COUNTRIES
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNCTAD has appealed to the developed countries to provide trade concessions to the Tsunami affected countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of increase in export from India to its member countries as a result of it and the details of items, export of which is likely to increase?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a)&(b)A Press Release issued on 18th January, 2005, UNCTAD has recommended the following trade measures that would help support reconstruction and development of the countries affected by the Tsunami:- A temporary provision of duty-free treatment to imports from the affected countries, in line with rules and disciplines of the World Trade Organisation (WTO); An immediate suspension and/or termination of all special trade restraining measures, such as anti-dumping actions, against products originating in the affected countries, like seafood and processed agricultural products; Immediate measures to strengthen capacities of the affected developing countries and their businesses to restore infrastructure needed to conform with sanitary and phytosanitary standards for their exports; Relaxation of market access for services providers of the affected countries to help generate additional foreign exchange; Special measures to revive the tourism industry and infrastructure, including a more supportive approach to travel advisories and improved access to information and distribution channels; Actions to support the rebuilding of trade logistics and other related service infrastructure.

(c) However, no such trade concessions have been implemented so far and therefore, the extent of increase in exports from India as a result of one or any of the trade measures recommended by UNCTAD Secretariat cannot be estimated.